

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 1, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 2, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 28

**Introduced by Assembly Member Ma
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Fletcher)**

February 19, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 28—Relative to Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 28, as amended, Ma. Eating Disorders Awareness Week.

This measure would recognize the weeks of February 22 through February 28, 2009, and February 21 through February 27, 2010, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week and would encourage citizens and policymakers to learn more about eating disorders and the obstacles to treatment, and to help people overcome and prevent these life-threatening diseases. ~~This measure also would urge the State Department of Public Health to undertake specified studies relating to eating disorders and make necessary or appropriate recommendations for legislation.~~

Fiscal committee: ~~yes~~-no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Ten million women and one million men across
- 2 the country are battling illnesses such as anorexia and bulimia,
- 3 and millions more are suffering from binge eating disorder; and
- 4 WHEREAS, An estimated 3.6 million women in California
- 5 alone struggle with an eating disorder; and

1 WHEREAS, Anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive overeating are
2 problems that are misunderstood, stigmatized, and undertreated;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Anorexia is the psychiatric disorder with the highest
5 mortality rate; and

6 WHEREAS, Anorexia is linked to an 18-fold increase in the
7 risk of death, with up to 20 percent of sufferers dying of
8 malnutrition ~~and~~ *or dying by* suicide; and

9 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are associated with substantial
10 psychological problems, including depression, substance abuse,
11 and suicide; and

12 WHEREAS, Eating disorders can lead to major medical
13 complications, including cardiac arrhythmia, cognitive impairment,
14 certain cancers, osteoporosis, infertility, kidney failure, and death;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Eating disorders affect persons of every race, color,
17 gender, and socioeconomic category; and

18 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are increasing among *people in*
19 younger age groups and affect children as young as seven years
20 of age; and

21 WHEREAS, Media pressures and genetic, social, and familial
22 factors are all known to be related to eating disorders; and

23 WHEREAS, Some physicians prematurely discharge patients
24 with anorexia nervosa due to limited opportunities to obtain
25 reimbursement; and

26 WHEREAS, Coverage and reimbursement for eating disorders
27 differ among various private and public health care coverage
28 options; and

29 WHEREAS, Eating disorders are treatable when diagnosed early
30 and treated sufficiently; and

31 WHEREAS, Eating disorders have become a significant public
32 health concern that should be treated no less seriously than obesity;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, The government should take a proactive role in
35 developing preventive education, improving access to care for all
36 forms of eating disorders, including binge eating and extreme
37 dieting; and

38 WHEREAS, The California Legislature is concerned with
39 preserving and protecting the health of the state's citizens; now,
40 therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the weeks of
3 February 22 through February 28, 2009, and February 21 through
4 February 27, 2010, as Eating Disorders Awareness Week, and
5 encourages citizens and policymakers to learn more about eating
6 disorders and the obstacles to treatment, and to help people
7 overcome and prevent these life-threatening diseases; and be it
8 further

9 ~~*Resolved, That the State Department of Public Health is urged*~~
10 ~~*to undertake a study of the public health impact of eating disorders*~~
11 ~~*in California, and the need for programs or policies to enhance*~~
12 ~~*education, awareness, detection, and prevention of these diseases*~~
13 ~~*in the general population; and be it further*~~

14 ~~*Resolved, That the State Department of Public Health is urged*~~
15 ~~*to undertake a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems*~~
16 ~~*mentioned in this resolution, or related thereto, and recommend*~~
17 ~~*any necessary or appropriate legislation; and be it further*~~

18 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*
19 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*